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## PATENT APPLICATION

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### *IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE*

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*Invention:* HYDROGENASE DEFICIENT  
BACTERIAL STRAINS

*Inventors:* Robert J. MAIER, et al.

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### FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop: PCT  
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Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified national patent application submitted herewith, Applicants request entry of the following:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.